

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
FORMER CLERK OF THE HOUSE
DONNALD K. ANDERSON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tireless public servant, whose 35 years of service to the House of Representatives have left an indelible legacy for the People's House: Former Clerk of the House Donald K. Anderson.

Donald Anderson's House career began in 1960, when he left home in Sacramento, California to spend his senior year of high school as a House Page. This transformative experience changed the course of his life, which he would dedicate to serving the House of Representatives.

As a Page assigned to a post in the Democratic Cloakroom, Anderson had a front row seat to the workings of Congress. Following a brief conversation with Clerk of the House Ralph R. Roberts while making a delivery to his office one day, Anderson decided that "being Clerk of the House has to be the best job in the world, and my fantasy as a 17-year-old high school senior was to be the Clerk of the House—little knowing that 27 years later I actually would become the Clerk of the House."

Following his time in the House Page initiative, Anderson attended Sacramento State University and George Washington University, and spent eight years proudly serving his nation in the U.S. Army Reserve. While pursuing his Bachelor's degree in political science, Anderson continued to work for the House, starting as an elevator operator in 1961. The experience he gained and relationships he cultivated led him to a position in the office of Congressman Jimmy Morrison of Louisiana, then to a position as an enrolling clerk and, in 1969, he returned to the Democratic Cloakroom as a second managerial assistant.

Anderson became an expert on procedure and scheduling, establishing a reputation as a sought-after resource for Members looking to navigate the complexities of the House Floor. In 1972, Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma appointed Anderson Majority Floor Manager, a position he held for 15 years. And on January 6, 1987, Anderson's lifelong dream became realized when he was sworn in as the Clerk of the House for the 100th Congress, a position he held for eight years until retiring in 1995.

In all his positions, Anderson served with integrity and dedication, taking immense pride in placing the duties of his office before partisanship or political ideology, which became a cornerstone of his tenure as Clerk. As Anderson noted, he was committed to "ensuring that my office was absolutely nonpartisan, that we treated all Members with the same courtesy, the same expediency, the same confidentiality, so that Members of the minority . . . could unburden themselves with me, even though I

was a Democrat, knowing that I would never break their confidence."

As Clerk, he was instrumental in the formation of the House Office of Employee Assistance and the Office of Fair Employment Practices, which continue to serve as vital tools for all House employees to receive the support and resources they need to effectively do their work on behalf of the American people. He also generously shared his deep knowledge of the legislative process and House protocol with new Members during Freshman orientation.

One of Clerk Anderson's most lasting impacts on the House was his commitment to modernize the House. In the era before cellphones, Clerk Anderson's campaign to introduce electronic beepers was a great success, and he constantly sought new tools to ensure Members were kept up-to-date on House proceedings. By harnessing new technologies, Anderson helped the House set the foundation for doing business in the information age and in a world increasingly reliant on technological innovation.

Clerk Anderson's love for the House and dedication to the institution stands as an enduring example for all those who will follow in his footsteps to serve the Congress and the American people.

May it be a comfort to his friends, loved ones and the entire Anderson family that so many mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEON
FLEISHER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, to honor a musical virtuoso, whose nearly 80-year-long career was marked by extraordinary triumphs, profound struggles and inspiring perseverance: the incomparable Leon Fleisher.

Born in San Francisco in 1928 to Jewish immigrant parents, Leon's life embodied the American Dream. At the age of four, he began listening to his brother's piano lessons before sneaking in afterwards to play everything he had heard by ear. It soon became clear that young Leon Fleisher was a piano prodigy. At age eight, he gave his first recital. At nine, he began training with the world-famous pianist Artur Schnabel. By sixteen, Fleisher was making his debut at Carnegie Hall. At 23, Fleisher became the first American to win the Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition in Brussels and at 25, he released his first studio album.

Leon Fleisher's career was meteoric, vaulting him to the top of the classical music world and making him a sought-after soloist for some of the world's most prestigious orchestras. Music critics of the time described

Fleisher as "transcendent," and that he had "this kind of Apollonian perfection . . . When you hear something that he's playing, you think that is the way it needs to be played."

But Fleisher's true greatness became clear when, at the age of 36, he received the catastrophic diagnosis of Focal Dystonia, which lost him the use of his right hand. While he faced many years of failed treatments and depression, he never lost hope. Instead, he found strength in the healing power of music. Harnessing his extraordinary talents, he continued the work he loved, becoming a master of the left hand repertoire; passing on his knowledge and expertise to younger generations of musicians as a teacher at The Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Maryland; and forming the acclaimed Theater Chamber Players, now based at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He also served as Artistic Director of the Tanglewood Music Center, Resident Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

In 1995, more than three decades after his initial diagnosis, Fleisher found a course of treatment that allowed him to slowly regain use of his right hand that had eluded him for so long. In reflecting on his years of struggle, Fleisher noted, "There are forces out there, and if you keep yourself open to them, if you go along with them, there are wondrous surprises."

Fleisher received many awards and accolades over the years, including being named a Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters by the Minister of Culture of the French government and a 2007 Kennedy Center Honor—fitting tributes to a remarkable career.

Fleisher's musical brilliance and visionary career strengthened and enriched the artistic fabric of our nation. He leaves a profound legacy for his countless students who follow in his footsteps and for the millions of music lovers around the world who he moved, inspired and entertained.

May it be a comfort to his wife, Katherine, his children, Deborah, Leah, Richard, Paula and Julian, and the entire Fleisher family that so many mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-
TIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, as other jurisdictions already have. Our bill simply removes a Home Rule Act limitation on the District that is not only inconsistent with

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